



COLLIER HERITAGE FOUNDATION

DISSEMINATING COLLIER FAMILY GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL INFORMATION

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More Roots and In Search of a Patriot

FEBRUARY 28, 2015 3:51 AM \ [LEAVE A COMMENT](#) \ [BY COLLIERHERITAGE](#) \ [EDIT](#)

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Here are some more documents relating to the genealogy research and the attempt to document the service of Vines Collier in the French and Indian War and his contributions to the American Revolution.

I believe the following letter is in response to the genealogy report posted under the "French? You must be kidding" topic. If so, then the letter is directed to the paid researcher of that report.

April 17th. 1919.

Mr. Philip Wharton Dickinson,
c/o New York Society Library,
109 University Place,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Your recent letter and genealogy report received. Am enclosing check for \$12.50 as per your advice in your letter. However, there are several matters which I am unable to fathom out, although I may be able to do so after continued study. Were you able to find any copies of wills previous to the original No. 1. Robert Collier of Stone ----- who married Isabella, daughter of Sir John Doddington. will probated 1522? Also in reference to this matter in comparison of the Collier pedigrees, photographs of which you sent on the Tree which you constructed please advise what are your reasons for differing for the regular photo pedigree. You will note the following difference. We give the pedigree as follows: Robert Collier of Stone, will probated 1522; Thirston Collier, will probated 1538; James Collier, will probated 1545; Robert Collier of Darlaston, will probated 1586, and the Robert Collier of London, will probated 1625. Whereas the photo pedigree gives No. 1 originally Robert Collier a Frenchman, residing at Darlaston; his Son, James Collier, of Darlaston and then his Son, Robert Collier, of Darlaston ---- married to Agnes Venables with the explanation on this pedigree stating that he had a Son Robert Collier who married the widow of Revell of Co. Derby. In comparison of these two differences advise just exactly why you conclude that the Robert Collier of London in your pedigree is the same as the Robert Collier in the photo pedigree, listed as Robert Collier of Derby Co. Please advise also why you have Thirston Collier being Son of Robert Stone of Darlaston when the photo pedigree does not take notice of Thirston, leaving him out. Why should the photo pedigree assume that Robert Collier of Darlaston originally came from France? I would thank you greatly to explain these differences. In the event you are not able to do so without the papers which you sent me-- if you wish to look at these papers again I, of course, can mail them to you with a copy of this letter. You can advise in regard to that. If you had

access to the will of James Collier, Linen-draper, which you mention as having been probated in 1545, it seems that this would give fully who his father was or vice-versa the wills of Thirston Collier probated in 1538 and Robert Collier, probated in 1522.

In your first pedigree to me you state that Marjorie Strangs, the widow of St. Botolph Aldgate, married Robert Collier of London. In your last pedigree you do not mention this name. Please advise if this is correct.

Very respectfully,

D. C. Collier.

P. S. I expect to be in New York City during the latter part of May, and possibly might look you up. You might give me your local address.

The research turned up two Collier Coats of Arms. One would eventually be selected to represent the family. It is used as the Collier Heritage Foundation logo found in this website. More about the Collier Coat of Arms in a later post.

April 18th. 1919.

Tiffany & Co.,
New York City

Gentlemen:

In further reference to your letter of Oct. 16th. 1918, would say that we have completed genealogy search of the Collier records and have identified the following arms as belonging to our family.

We find that we can use either of two different arms granted to our family at different times. We would like for you to send us a sketch in the correct color of each one of these so that we can decide which one we want. We would want a hand-colored picture of arms as well as a steel dye together with stationery etc.

Please note the following was granted Frances Collier of Stone -- dated 1623 Sable, a Cross pattee fitchee. Crest a Cross pattee fitchee between two expanded wings, all or.

Or the following granted to Robert Collier of Darlaston and Stone, dated 1583, argent, on a Chevron Azure, between three Demi Unicorns Courant Gules as many acorn slips or. Crest a Demi-Moore Affrontee proper, with rings in his ears or holding in his Dexter hand an oak branch fructed gold.

Awaiting prompt information from you, I am,

Yours respectfully,

D. C. Collier.

DCC:VB

Rossina Mordecai produced evidence of the Colonial service of Vines Collier:

MISS ROSINA MORDECAI
1803 HANOVER AVENUE
RICHMOND, VA.

July 19, 1927.

Dear Mr. Collier: -

Your letter enclosing the fee was received, and I am sorry I was unavoidably delayed in making the search.

Am enclosing a certified copy of the proof of Colonial service of Vines Collier. This is all that appears for him from references in Colonial and Revolutionary lists.

I also examined a book in the State Library on the expedition to Fort Duquesne, but the name Collier does not appear in the index.

I found the name with reference in Cechurode's list of "Colonial Soldiers of Virginia". Yours very truly,

Rosina Mordecai

The response to Durward Cuthbert Collier's inquiry of Brunswick Co., Virginia concerning the marriage of Vines Collier and Sarah Elizabeth Williamson.

HON. MARSHALL R. PETERSON
JUDGE
W. EMORY ELMORE
CLERK

OFFICE OF COUNTY CLERK
OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY
LAWRENCEVILLE, VIRGINIA

Lawrenceville, Virginia

August 20th 1927

Mr. D.C. Collier,
Barnesville, Ga.

Dear Sir:-

I received your letter of August 15th with check for \$2.00 inclosed, for which I thank you. You stated in your letter that you were inclosing memorandum of the genealogical records of the Collier family, but you failed to inclose same.

I also looked over the marriage records, but could not find any record of the marriage of Vines Collier and Sarah Elizabeth Williamson, they must have been married in some other County.

I do not know any one personally in Yorktown Virginia, that I could ask to look up the will of Thomas Vines and Benjamin Williamson, but I am sure if you write to the Clerk of the Court there he could either look it up for you, or get someone to do it.

I trust that you will be successful in getting the records that you desire.

Yours very truly,

Willie B. Abernathy
(Mrs J. C. Abernathy)

Aug. 24, 1927.

Mrs. J. O. Abernathy,
Lawrenceville, Va.

Dear Mrs. Abernathy:

I am herewith enclosing you a copy of the Collier genealogy.

It is possible that Vines Collier and Sarah Elizabeth Williamson were married in York County, as the Colliers moved from York County to Brunswick County.

I would appreciate greatly your looking up the Revolutionary records in Brunswick County of Vines Collier. I do not know just where to suggest that you look, but no doubt the county has a list of the Revolutionary soldiers, commissions, etc.

I would appreciate your further advice in regard to this.

Thanking you, I remain

Yours truly,

DCC:S

D. C. COLLIER.

Dictated but not read.

Further correspondence from Mordecai reveals she has reached a dead-end on Vines contribution to the American Revolution.

MISS ROSINA MORDECAI
1803 HANOVER AVENUE
RICHMOND, VA.

Aug. 24, 1927.

Dear Mr. Collier:—

I enclose the certified
record.

The only thing I can suggest—
is to have the court-order books
of York or Brunswick counties,
or both, searched for Revolutionary
record of Vines Collier.

I am not, at present, situated so
that I can leave to work in
the counties, but can recommend
Rev. J. S. Farland, 915 West Grace
St., Richmond, Va., for this.

Yours very truly,

Rosina Mordecai.

Then J. D. Eggeston finds the evidence!

I have found Rev. Service of
Vines Collier in some loose
papers in Va. State Library.

Rich. 8/28 J D Eggleston

A "most welcome letter"...

March 12, 1928.

Mr. J. D. Eggleston,
C/o Hampton Sidney College,
Hampton Sidney, Va.

Dear Mr. Eggleston:

I have your most welcome letter of March 8th stating that you have found Revolutionary Service of Vines Collier. I can't begin to express to you the pleasant surprise this brought me, because I had made a faithful search in many different directions to secure this information.

I would appreciate it if you would have copies made of the documents with notary signature, sending the amount of charges at the same time to me here.

You will see that I have now moved to Athens.

My father has been in correspondence with one of the bookers, the exact name and address I don't recall now, but I will advise you, and I rather think that some of this information might be of interest to you. I am asking him to write you further about this.

Since I wrote you last I have joined the Society of Colonial Wars.

Should you ever be in this section, I would appreciate a visit from you. If I can be of any service to you in looking up any records here, please call on me.

With best wishes, I remain

Cordially yours,

DCC:E

Followed by an exchange of letters concerning Eggleston.

HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE

HAMPDEN-SYDNEY, VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT

March 16, 1928

Angie

Mr. D. C. Collier
Athens, Georgia

Dear Mr. Collier:

I have your letter of the 12th. A letter from Mr. J. C. Collier came the day after yours, sending me some Booker data.

I believe the best plan as to the Vines Collier data is to have photostat copies made in Richmond, and send you these. There will be three, and possibly four of these copies, and they will cost you about 30 to 40 cents each. This is just as good as the copying and the notary's signature, and will cost little, if any, more. I expect to go to Richmond in the near future; shall I have this done for you?

I found that Vines Collier furnished supplies to the American army; and this is sufficient ground on which to enter the S.A.R. on his name. I found these records in some loose papers in the Brunswick County files. I am very glad to have been able to be of service to you in this quest.

I may be in Georgia next summer; and if so, will look you up. I have a relative in Mrs. Horace Holden of Athens, and two friends and college mates in Dr. W. H. Bocock and Prof. W. D. Hooper of the University of Georgia.

Very sincerely yours,

W. G. Lester

March 19, 1928.

Mr. J. D. Eggleston,
C/o Hampden-Sydney College,
Hampden-Sydney, Va.

Dear Mr. Eggleston:

Your letter of March 16th received, and I thank you for the information. Please have photostat copies made as per your suggestion.

I shall be pleased to see you here in Athens at any time you decide to come down.

I have heard of Mrs. Helden, and should I meet Dr. Pocock or Prof. Hooper, I shall mention your name. I have an uncle, Dr. E. P. Stephens, who has the chair of mathematics at the University.

Very sincerely yours,

April 2, 1928.

Mr. J. D. Eggleston,
C/o Hampden-Sydney College,
Hampden-Sydney, Va.

Dear Mr. Eggleston:

I am in receipt of the photostatic copy giving proof of Vines Collier's service in the Revolution. Please accept my thanks. I have not yet received a bill for the photostatic work. Please have the librarian send same to me.

With kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

DCC:E

April 2, 1928.

Mr. J. C. Collier,
Barnesville, Ga.

Dear Father:

Enclosed find herewith photostats showing Vines
Collier's service in the Revolution. Please write Mr. Eg-
gleston to have another copy made. You might also have Grace
make some typewritten copies of these.

Sincerely yours,

DCC:E

Encl.

An then an apparent misunderstanding about the source of Collier genealogy information.

~~OFFICE OF THE~~
~~SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH~~
RICHMOND, VA.

Richmond, Va.
April 3, 1928.

Mr. Jena Cuthbert Collier,
Barnesville,
Georgia.

Dear Sir:

I am extremely sorry that I did not understand when I published my first two volumes who was the compiler of the data which Mrs. Comer sent to me and gave me the privilege of using.

After the books were out I saw Mrs. Comer, and she told me then that she was sorry I had connected her name to it, as some one else had done all the work. I supposed that she or her cousin had paid some genealogist for the work, so let it remain as it stood.

Of course the books had gone onto the market, and I thought everything was right. Mrs. Comer is a very conscientious person, and would never seek to take credit which is not her own. I simply never questioned how she obtained the data; thought it had come to her in such way as one sometimes gets such things; by their own research and contribution of others, or from an employed genealogist.

Having her consent, I published it as a contribution from her, as I did some of my own D.A.R. lineages you may find in the book, which I asked my client's consent, before I published as "contributed" by them, when they had not done the work, but I had.

It is very kind of you to so leniently "let me out" of this embarrassment, by asking me to "give you the proper credit" in any future reprint. I shall be glad to do so, and am sure that Mrs. Comer would much prefer to have me do so.

I am about finishing my third volume of records of Va. Soldiers of 1776, and submit to you this correction (on separate paper).

I do not intend to include in the third volume data of date prior to Revolution, but in the case of the "Georgia Colliers", with your consent; would very much like to print the copy you sent in your letter, and if you have no other purpose plan for using your Greeme, Cuthbert, Means and Booker--Revolutionary descent; I would count it a great favor and addition; if you will "contribute" some of that, leading to yourself, and with this; my correction of the former data, would strengthen my books rather than weaken them. I will be grateful.

I have the pleasure of the friendship of Dr. Eggleston, and he spoke of you the other day, saying he had found something to send you that would please you. I believe it was Revolutionary "Public Claim", for Vines Collier, which allows D.A.R. and S.A.R. membership on him.

I think it was you, or perhaps Mr. Collier of Richmond.

Now if you will be kind to tell me if this correction will be satisfactory, and what you may decide about the lines you mentioned.

Please do not think Mrs. Comer was ungracious, for she was very gracious, and it was simply misunderstanding on my part as I did not know the author of the work; only that she gave it to me, and I naturally thought it right to attribute it to her.

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
RICHMOND, VA.

The Georgia Colliers.

Note on pages 83-85, Va. Soldiers of '76 is given a contribution from a member of the Collier family. After the books were printed, my kind contributor informed me that this splendid compilation was not the result of her research, but was the hard work and a trip to England of another member of the family which made it possible for us to have so much of this data.

The Georgia Colliers.

On pages 83-85 of Va. Soldiers of 1776, credit was not given to the compiler of this carefully prepared data. Mr. Jena Cuthbert Collier, of Barnesville, Georgia has very kindly advised me of his work here and in England to perfect the research, and I wish most sincerely, as does my contributor, to give Mr Collier credit for the work.

Mr. Jena Collier has secured a large volume of data on his family, together with information concerning the Greene, Means and Booker families, to which he also belongs, and I am hopeful that he will consent to contribute at least that portion relative to his Revolutionary ancestors, to volume three of Virginia Soldiers of 1776.

I am sure many of my subscribers would be grateful to possess this information of these interesting families.

Does the above meet with your approval, or would you suggest something else. I thought of adding to the above--My contributor informs me that I failed to give credit to the compiler of the data given on pages 83-85, Va. Soldiers of 1776,

I do not wish to have persons think Mrs. Comer was in any way inclined to take credit for something which she disclaimed to me.

You give a reference on second page of your copy which I do not understand. Va. Mag. Hist. Vol. II p. 278, and Wm. and Mary Quar. VIII, 202 and 25557-IXA 18385.

? ?
Please let me hear from you, and I thank you for your letter. I will send you proof of print, and ask you to make any corrections you may think best.

Very truly yours,

Louis A. Burgess
Louis A. Burgess.

212 West Broad St

March 18, 1951.

Mr. Louis A. Burgess,
212 West Broad Street,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Sir:

I have just come across again your letter of
April 3, 1928.

Did you make the correction in Volume III of
your Virginia Soldiers, as suggested in this letter. If
you have not, I would be glad to get a correction made,
with additional data in your next volume.

Kindly let me hear from you by return mail,
and greatly oblige

Yours respectfully,

J. C. Collier.

JCC.w

And Mrs. Jena Cuthbert Collier continues the pursuit of information on Vines Collier.

Barnesville, Ga.
March 27, 1931.

War Department,
Office Of The Quartermaster General,
Washington, D. C.

Your File
Q M 293 A-M
Collier, Vines

Attention: Capt. R. E. Shannon,
Q. M. Corps, Asst.

Dear sir:-

Yours March 20th received and noted.

Enclosed find additional data relating to the official record of Vines Collier both as an Ensign in the French and Indian War of 1758 in and around Fort Duqurue now Pittsburg, also, a record of his contribution to the war of the Revolution. He was wounded in the war of 1758, and was also too old to serve as a soldier in the Revolutionary war.

Very respectfully, .

Enc.

Mrs. Jena Cuthbert Collier, Regent,
Lamar-Lafayette Chapter, D. A.R.,
Barnesville, Georgia.

"... sometime during the fall ..."

September 10, 1932

Mrs. Dell Collier Perry
Hamlet, N. C.

Dear Mrs. Perry:

Your letter of August 19th was received by Mrs. Collier promptly, and same was given to me for reply, but I have been so busy that I have not had time to answer before today.

I have enormous amounts of Collier history, dating away back to Staffordshire, England. My son, D. C. Collier, visited the grave of Robert Collier at Stone, England, about three or four years ago. Stone is situated in Stafford County.

I have seen the Cornelius Collier genealogy; in fact, have a copy of it given me by Martha Collier of Petersburg, and I do not think this record correct. I think it is far from correct, simply gotten out by some paid genealogist that stuck it together without knowing just what he was doing.

You will find a lot of my genealogy records in The Virginia Soldiers by Burgess of Richmond, Virginia, under the name of Mrs. Georgia Comer. Mrs. Comer was a Miss Collier. My genealogy was sent to Chas. H. Collier of Richmond and he then sent it to his cousin, Mrs. Georgia Collier Comer of Savannah. I happened to discover this in the book after it was printed. I called Mrs. Comer's attention to it, and in the next volume of Virginia Soldiers she gave me partial credit. She had done no work, and she has since placed therein another genealogy record of the Collier family that originated from my brain and pen.

Sometime during the fall, it is my idea to complete my records, but I am securing additional data from other members of the Collier family. We have an interesting record for we have several branches.

I would be pleased if you would give me your complete record on the Collier side as far back as you can go. I mean records of your own knowledge and not a genealogist's, commencing with your first parent, then grand-parents, great grand-parents, and so on back, in order that I may enter same in the record that I get up.

Very respectfully,

J. C. Collier

JCC:EPH

"A complete genealogy of the Collier family . . . would require a great deal of work. . ."

Mon. 4th, 1936

Mrs. Etta B. Worsley
2300 17th Avenue
Columbus, Ga.

Dear Mrs. Worsley:-

In reply to yours March 3rd.

The data is already in the History of Lamar County, which you are at liberty to use if I am given proper credit. My facts are very similar to what I had published in Lamar County History.

You will also find data regarding the Collier family of the writer in the History of Georgia by Howell, published about eight years ago.

A complete genealogy of the Collier family, which I assume you are not interested in, would require a great deal of work, however, Dr. I. C. Evans of your City has a short genealogical record of the Collier family sent to him by the writer.

With very kind regards, I am

Yours most cordially,

J. C. Collier

Final clarification:

Barnesville, Ga.
Sept. 29th, 1942

Dr. J. D. Eggleston
Hampton-Sydney, Va.

Dear Dr. Eggleston:

Further answering your letter August 12th.

In Vol. 1, page 82-86 you will find a history of my family written by me, a copy given Mrs. Georgia Comer of Savannah through Chas. Collier of Richmond, Va., which he obtained from me and published under her name. In checking these records, I discovered that she had used them without my consent or knowledge. I immediately called her attention to this, she had them corrected and begged my pardon, and this you will find in Va. Soldiers, Vol. 3, page 1402.

This is how you got mixed up as to my correct name.

My great grand mother, Martha Marshall Booker was in life until I was ten years of age. I remember quite well she was blind and died at the age of 96, she lived on the old homestead, was buried on the farm and I own the cemetery, Robert, her husband died many years before and is buried by her side, and all of their slaves that died before freedom are buried in this cemetery. One son, Efford Cobb drifted to Texas in 1856, he is buried at Douglasville, Texas, and my inquiries found his grave, his people had scattered all over the state of Texas and I visited several of them on my last trip in Nov. 1926, around Dallas, Fort Worth, and Waco, as I had at that time many large jobbers carrying our line of knit underwear made by the Collier Manufacturing Co. of Barnesville.

My great grand mother Martha Marshall Booker, as a child, I remember she had a most wonderful brain.

My time is also getting close to the end, but will be pleased to furnish you information as long as I can.

With very kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

J. C. Collier

P. S. I understand now how you got my name mixed up in addressing your letters, it was caused by the printer that published Vol. 1 of Va. Soldiers by Burgess. You will also find Robt. Collier and his wife Martha Marshall Booker's name mentioned in Goodes Va. Cousins, or Va. Cousins by Goodes.